



Runge Conservation Nature Center Habitat Happenings

November & December 2004

Seeds and pods are ways plants multiply and spread themselves around. Some do it by floating, exploding, hitching a ride, gliding, or just falling. In our changing world, some plants are finding it harder to multiply due to the continuing challenge of finding a good place to sprout and send down roots. As we all know, plants are not alone in this challenge to reproduce and stay alive.

Our passion and love of nature and the outdoors can also be viewed as seeds and pods. Because we know and have experienced the incredible benefits and value of having this love affair with the outdoors, we can't help but pass on and spread that passion and love. From a conservation perspective, it is essential to pass on our passion if we want our wonderful outdoor heritage to continue and thrive.

Just like many of our native plants that have to compete with introduced exotics and urbanization

to keep their species alive, so too we find that our passion "seeds" have to compete with many modern enticements like computers, video games, and surround sound, that are so appealing and can take up much of our time.

*Take someone
fishing,
hunting, or
camping.*

It is important for us to be "pods" and continue to spread our seeds and do our part to help keep this kind of love blooming. Let us not give up. It is a win-win opportunity. Let's keep our seeds floating, exploding, hitching a ride, gliding, or just falling down in a good place. It doesn't take too much before

the seeds that are planted begin to sprout and the roots start going deeper and deeper.

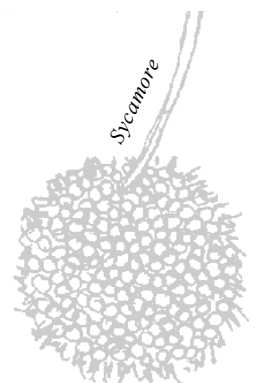
You can start sharing your passion for the outdoors by checking out some of my "seed" ideas throughout this newsletter. The list can be as endless as the multitude of seeds that nature gives us.

George Syrigos, Naturalist

P.S. Don't forget to include the Runge Nature Center as a place to help you pass on your passions.



eds and Pods





Volunteer News

Twenty-one Runge volunteers traveled to St. Joseph in September to attend the MDC Statewide Volunteer Field Trip. At this annual event, volunteers get to meet volunteers from other MDC sites. Programs and field trips highlight a different region of the state each year. This year's trip featured the St. Joe, Patee House, Pony Express museums, and guided tours of the loess hill prairies and marshes of Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge.



Exhibits

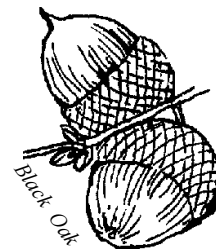
**Outdoor Writers' Association of America, Inc.
2004-2005**

Traveling Photo Exhibit

The exhibit includes 30 award-winning color and black-and-white photos that allow the viewer to experience nature up-close. Five categories of excellent photos are represented: scenic, flora, people, action, and fauna.

Notice!

In observance of Christmas and the New Year, Runge Nature Center will be closed on December 25th and 26th and January 1st and 2nd.



Plant a native butterfly garden for all the neighbors to see.

Runge Conservation Nature Center is located in western Jefferson City. From U.S. 50, exit on Highway 179. Travel north for 1/4 mile to the Nature Center entrance on the left. The Nature Center is open Monday through Saturday 8:00AM to 5:00PM and Noon to 5:00PM on Sundays. Closed New Year's Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. No admission fee. 573/526-5544
www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/runge

Scout Packs Available

Scout leaders, you can now check out packs to work on a badge when it is convenient for you. Make your reservation with Andrea at 573/522-4115 ext. 3401.

Wolf Cub Elective #13 - *Birds*

Cub Scout Achievement #5 - *Sharing Your World With Wildlife*

Naturalist & Forester Pack (This pack contains activities that meet requirements of both the Naturalist and Forester badges.)

Brownie Try-It - *Animals*

Brownie Try-It - *Plants*

Did you know?

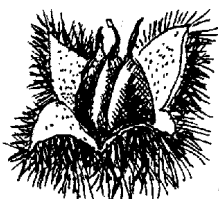
Over a million people have visited Runge Conservation Nature Center since we opened in 1993.

Lewis and Clark Trunks Available

Runge Nature Center has Lewis and Clark Educational Resource Trunks available (primary level kindergarten - 3rd grade and intermediate level 4th - 6th grade), for two-week check-outs. These trunks will give students a chance to handle tools and materials similar to those the expedition carried, as they discover the importance of natural resources to the westward expansion and compare them to those of today. Lesson plans are also included. Please call Robin at 573/522-4115 ext. 3405 to reserve a trunk.

We are working...

Over the past 11 years our ponds have silted in and are in need of a facelift. In October, 3 ponds were renovated and a small amphibian pond was added to the area. By next spring they should all be hopping with activity.



American Chestnut

Invite friends and family out to a natural area for a picnic and/or hike.

Conservation Kids' Club



Welcome to Conservation Kids' Club, a fun club created for kids 6 through 13 years old who love to explore nature and learn about wildlife. Come to our meeting and we'll sign you up. No reservations required to attend.

Gobble! Gobble!

Tuesday, November 16 — 7:00-8:00PM

Pollywogs (Ages 6 through 8) and Bullfrogs (Ages 9 through 13) combine for this event.

Just in time for Turkey Day... join us for a "Gobbling" lesson from nationally known turkey caller Ralph Duren. Learn about Missouri's wild turkeys. Make your own turkey caller to take home and eat a "turkey treat!"



It's Trapping Time

Tuesday, December 14 — 7:00-8:00PM

Pollywogs (Ages 6 through 8) and Bullfrogs (Ages 9 through 13) combine for this event.

Join us as we explore the world of furbearing animals, their benefits, and some of the problems associated with expanding populations. You will get to see and feel many animal furs, see different types of traps used to harvest these critters and see what they are used for. Details will be given on the benefits of controlling furbearer populations and the need for trapping as an important tool for management and damage control. Some information will be given on trapping regulations, as well.

Hey, Parents!

While big brother/sister attends Conservation Kids' Club, your preschooler (3 through 5 years of age) can be involved in a program at the same time. A preschool program will be available for siblings of Conservation Kids' Club members on Tuesday, November 16, 7:00PM and December 14, 7:00PM. No reservations required.

HABITAT HAPPENINGS

Eagle Days



January 8 9am - 4pm

January 9 10am - 4pm

~Wild eagle viewing sites with high-power scopes at the Bagnell Dam access and on the deck of the Willmore Lodge. Dress warmly.

~Live eagles and staff from World Bird Sanctuary at Willmore Lodge.

~Nature gifts will be for sale in Willmore Lodge.

Willmore Lodge~Lake Ozark

Sponsored by the Runge Conservation Nature Center
and the Lake Area Chamber of Commerce

Habitat Happenings

Runge Conservation Nature Center
P.O. Box 180
Jefferson City, MO 65102

PRSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Jefferson City Missouri
Permit No. 274

November Events at Runge

To make a reservation, call Runge Conservation Nature Center **on or after 8:00AM on November 1st** to register for these programs (573/526-5544.) If you have to cancel, please call as soon as possible so someone on the waiting list can attend.

RESERVATION Change!

Beginning with the January/February 2005 newsletter we will implement a **month-at-a-time** reservation policy. This means that you may start making reservations for programs on the first day of the month in which the programs occur. You can sign up for January programs on January 3rd and February programs on February 1st. By switching to a monthly reservation system, we hope that our “no show” rate will decrease.

3 Wednesday

Wildlife Badge

Time: 6:00-7:00PM

Ages: Junior Girl Scouts

Reservations required.

6 Saturday

Runge Hiking Club






Time: 8:00AM-5:30PM

Ages: 18 years and older

See splendid sights! Burn some calories! Learn about our wondrous state! Come join novice and experienced day hikers alike as we strap on our boots and go! Each month, we'll meet at the nature center, car pool to one of Missouri's choice hiking spots, and hike one or two of the best trails. A volunteer naturalist will lead the hikes and point out highlights as we go.

The landscape at **Ha Ha Tonka State Park** is an intriguing blend of karst features, forested hills, and open woodlands. We'll begin on the **Spring Trail** (1.5 miles 🚶🚶🚶) to visit the state's 12th largest spring and brave the 316 vertical steps on the boardwalk. After lunch, we'll hike the **Turkey Pen Hollow Trail** (5 miles 🚶🚶🚶), and experience one of the finest savanna and glade landscapes in the state. Bring your lunch, water, hiking boots or comfortable shoes, and come dressed for the weather. Reservations required.

Trail rating system for the trails advertised for the Runge Hiking Club.

-  -Easiest trail—flat terrain with no obstructions (like the Katy Trail)
-  -Slight inclines and/or few obstructions (gravel, few rocks)
-  -Moderate inclines and/or occasional rocks or roots
-  -Occasional significant inclines and/or rocks or roots
-  -Most difficult—significant inclines, obstructions, and/or loose rocks

6 Saturday

Beginning Archery

Time: 10:00-11:30AM and 2:00-3:30PM

Ages: 8 years and older

“I shoot an arrow into the air, and where it lands...”

With a little practice we can help you hit the target.

Join us at the nature center for some archery fun. We'll provide the equipment, instructions, and targets. You provide the smiles. Make a point to be here! Reservations required.

We're hungry and we don't mind you watchin'!

Stop by the nature center and watch the critters being fed.

November 20

Fish - 1:00PM & 1:30PM

Snapping Turtles - 1:15PM



Burr Oak

Get involved in the many youth hunts offered by the MO Department of Conservation.

Habitat Happenings

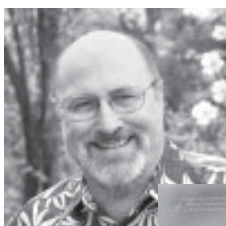
7 Sunday

Nature and the Arts... an afternoon with wildlife artists, photographers, musicians, and authors

Time: 1:00-3:00PM

Ages: All

Discover the beauty of nature expressed through the pen of an author, the brush of a painter, the lens of a photographer, and the fingers of a musician. Meet the artists and authors and stroll among their creations. Cozy up by our fireplace and listen to music inspired by nature. This event will feature the following artists:



Jim Rathert: *Missouri Conservationist's* longtime nature photographer will be on hand to autograph his recently released book, *In Focus*. This book

features stunning photography from habitats across Missouri.



PJ Webber: Visit with nationally known watercolor artist, PJ Webber, featuring paintings of native Missouri wildlife, flowers, and scenes common to Missouri.



Don Kurz: Meet Don Kurz, both an avid author and a talented nature photographer. Don will have five of his books ready to autograph, including his two most recent, *Trees of Missouri* and newly published *Illinois Wildflowers*.



Jan and George Syrigos: Jan, Emmy Award winning songwriter, and her husband George will perform original songs throughout the afternoon. Critter Rock CDs, videos and songbooks will be available for autographs.

9 Tuesday

Bird Basics

Time: 6:00-7:00PM

Ages: All

What birds do we see at Runge? What do they eat? What can we do for them? Come find out! Reservations required.

10 Wednesday

Animal Try-It

Time: 6:30-7:30PM

Ages: Girl Scout Brownies (grade school age)

Reservations required.

10 Wednesday

What's Happening to the Bobwhite?

Time: 7:00-8:00PM

Ages: Adults

Inquiring minds want to know...“What's Happening in the Life of Bobwhite?” Elsa Gallagher, Upland Wildlife Coordinator with the Missouri Department of Conservation, will tell all about quail including the most recent news about their everyday lives. The program is co-sponsored by the River Bluffs Audubon Society. No reservations required.

17 Wednesday

Bear Achievement #5 Sharing Your World With Wildlife

Time: 6:30-7:30PM

Ages: 3rd grade Boy Scouts

Reservations required.

For the Little Ones

Babes In The Woods

Birth through 2 years of age

The Babes in the Woods program is taking time off. We will return in the spring with fresh new programs for the youngest among us. Watch for those dates in the March/April newsletter.

Little Acorns

3 through 6 years of age

Friday, November 5 – 10:00AM

Tuesday, November 9 – 10:00AM

Tuesday, November 9 – 6:00PM

Friday, November 12 – 11:00AM

Saturday, November 13 – 10:00AM

Thursday, November 18 – 2:00PM

Saturday, November 20 – 10:00AM

Turkey Talk

A turkey is a very funny bird, his head goes wobble, wobble, wobble. But the only thing a turkey says is gobble, gobble, gobble! Reservations required.



18 Thursday

Wildlifers: Nature Quilt Block

Time: 10:00-11:30AM, 1:00-2:30PM,

3:30-5:00PM, and 6:00-7:30PM

Ages: 50 years and older

Learn interesting facts about the Eastern bluebird, and piece together a quilt block featuring Missouri's state bird. Reservations required.

20 Saturday

Reading Book Discussion Group

Time: 2:30-4:00PM

Ages: 18 years and older

For November, the Book Discussion group will be reading *The Outermost House* by Henry Beston.

The Outermost House is a chronicle of a solitary year spent on a Cape Cod beach and has long been recognized as a classic of American nature writing. This book was recommended by someone in the group, who stated that it was one of their favorite books of all time!

This book is available at Downtown Book and Toy with a 30% discount for reading/discussion groups. Reservations required.

26 Friday

Shopping Alternatives – Lobby Activities!

Time: 10:00AM-4:00PM

Ages: Families

Drop by the nature center and participate in crafts, puzzles, and much more! No reservations required.

26 Friday

Shopping Alternatives – Snakes Alive!

Time: 1:00-2:00PM

Ages: Families

Slither in and avoid the shopping rush! Shiny not slimy, scaly not furry, smelling with a tongue instead of their nose and walking on ribs instead of toes, what a strange life a snake leads! This program provides a wonderful opportunity for kids to peer into the life and times of these unique reptiles with a special guest appearance by a live Missouri snake. No reservations required.

27 Saturday

Wildflower Workshop

Time: 10:00-11:00AM

Ages: 18 and older

Get a head start on your summer wildflowers! Seeds scattered in the fall benefit from the cold-moist period of winter to break their dormancy. You will learn which wildflowers are best for shade, open areas, and which combinations work best. Reservations required.

December Events at Runge

To make a reservation, call Runge Conservation Nature Center **on or after 8:00AM on November 1st** to register for these programs (573/526-5544.) If you have to cancel, please call as soon as possible so someone on the waiting list can attend.

RESERVATION Change!

Beginning with the January/February 2005 newsletter we will implement a **month-at-a-time** reservation policy. This means that you may start making reservations for programs on the first day of the month in which the programs occur. You can sign up for January programs on January 3rd and February programs on February 1st. By switching to a monthly reservation system, we hope that our “no show” rate will decrease.

3 Friday

Living Windows Downtown Jefferson City

Time: 5:30-8:30PM

Ages: All Ages

Get into the Holiday spirit! Come see the Runge staff in action as they perform at a storefront window downtown. No reservations required.

5 Sunday

Puppet Show: “Where Do You Go When It Feels Like Snow?”

Time: 2:00-3:00PM

Ages: Families

Br-rr-r, it's getting chilly outside. You know what to do when temperatures fall and rain turns to snow. But how do Missouri's animals know? Join the Runge Puppeteers and see how Red Fox, Fox Squirrel, and other animals answer the question, “Where do you go when it feels like snow?” Reservations required.

8 Wednesday

Watching Wildlife Try-It

Time: 6:30-7:30PM

Ages: Girl Scout Brownies (grade school age)

Reservations required.

We're hungry and we don't mind you watchin'!

Stop by the nature center and watch the critters being fed.

December 11

Fish - 1:00PM & 1:30PM


Snapping Turtles - 1:15PM

11 Saturday

Runge Hiking Club

Time: 8:00AM-5:30PM

Ages: 18 years and older

With over 17,000 acres, **Lake of the Ozarks State Park** is Missouri's largest. One of the quieter spots in the park, Patterson Hollow Wild Area is 1,275 acres of mature forest, old fields, and an intermittent drainage with small springs and seeps. This month, we'll hike the **Woodland Trail** (6 miles ) which meanders through the middle of the wild area. Bring your lunch, water, hiking boots or comfortable shoes, and come dressed for the weather. Reservations required.

15 Wednesday

Bird Elective

Time: 6:30-7:30PM

Ages: 2nd grade Cub Scouts

Reservations required.

16 Thursday

Wildlifers: Nature Quilt Block

Time: 10:00-11:30AM, 1:00-2:30PM,

3:30-5:00PM, and 6:00-7:30PM

Ages: 50 and older

Complete the last patchwork block for the 2004 series with the Cardinal. Learn about this brilliant bird, common at your feeder year round. Reservations required.

Habitat Happenings

18 Saturday

Reading Book Discussion Group

Time: 2:30-4:00PM

Ages: 18 years and older

For December, the Book Discussion Group will be reading ***The Earth Speaks—An Acclimatization Journal***, edited by Steve Van Matre and Bill Weiler. In this wonderful collection of writings, the Earth's voice has been captured in words and images by those who have listened with their hearts. The writings are brought to life by the beautiful block prints of Gwen Frostic. Enjoy reading these beautiful words and join us for discussion and reading.

“Climb the mountains and get their good tidings. Nature's peace will flow into you as sunshine flows into trees. The wind will blow their own freshness into you, and the storms their energy, while cares will drop off like autumn leaves.” —John Muir

This book is available at Downtown Book and Toy with a 30% discount for reading/discussion groups. Reservations required.

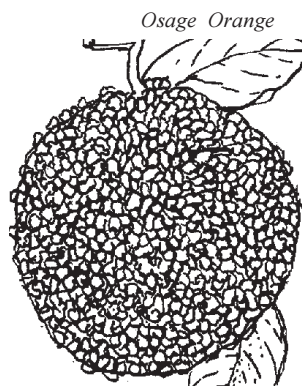
29 Wednesday

Otterly Amazing

Time: 1:00-2:00PM

Ages: All

Join Glenn Chambers and his live river otter for a fascinating program that explains otter life history and the successful restoration project. Reservations required.



*Keep binoculars
handy by the window
when the grandkids
come over for a visit.*

Nature Shop News

**November/December
featured item**



**20%
off**

Heritage card
discount does
not apply.

Introduce children to the amazing array of life in Missouri forests by reading aloud this colorful book written by Lorna Domke and illustrated by wildlife artist David Besenger. It's the story of a gray fox kit that sets out one spring morning and meets all sorts of flying, crawling and running creatures, including a luna moth, tiger salamander, box turtle, white-tailed deer and more. To be read to children ages 2-6. Discounted price: softcover—**\$6.40 plus tax**

For the Little Ones

Babes In The Woods

Birth through 2 years of age

The Babes in the Woods program is taking time off. We will return in the spring with fresh new programs for the youngest among us. Watch for those dates in the March/April newsletter.

Little Acorns

3 through 6 years of age

Saturday, December 4 – 10:00AM

Tuesday, December 7 – 6:00PM

Friday, December 10 – 10:00AM

Wednesday, December 15 – 2:00PM

Saturday, December 18 – 10:00AM

Tuesday, December 21 – 11:00AM



Animal Clues

I spy a raccoon or is it an opossum? How can you tell? This month we will learn about various clues that help us find out what animal was here! Come and be a nature detective with us. Reservations required.

Join us at the nature center
for some natural fun!

Holiday Array

December 28 ~ 30
10:00AM ~ 4:00PM

- ❖ Nature Crafts
- ❖ Puppet Show
- ❖ Fireside Storytelling
- ❖ Live Music
- ❖ Free Refreshments

*Additional details will be in the
January/February newsletter.*



**Now Available
2005**

**Natural Events Calendar
\$5.00 plus tax**